

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
EUGENE DISTRICT OFFICE

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
And
DECISION RECORD
Lower Cash Creek Meadows Restoration
Environmental Assessment No. 0R090-EA-04-2

Background:

An Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed Lower Cash Creek Meadows Restoration Project were prepared by the Upper Willamette Resource Area, Eugene District. This project would occur in the Mohawk/McGowan Watershed in Townships 15 S. and 16 S., R. 1 W., Sections 31 and 6. The site falls within the Matrix land use allocation, but is not included in the District's commercial timber harvest base.

The purpose of the project is to:

- Use management practices, including fire, to move the Lower Cash Meadows toward a larger component of open meadow and Oregon white oak with lower conifer stocking levels and an open understory.
- Maintain the existing low fuel loadings.

Project objectives:

- Reduce current stocking levels of young conifers less than 15" diameter breast height (dbh) by greater than or equal to 90%.
- Maintain 90% of the existing Oregon white oak trees.
- Create snags and coarse woody debris.

Public Comment:

The EA was advertised on February 25, 2004 in the Eugene Register Guard as available for a 30-day public review period. No comments were received during the review period.

Finding of No Significant Impact:

On the basis of the information contained in the attached Environmental Assessment, and all other information available to me, it is my determination that implementation of the proposed action or alternative will not have significant environmental impacts not already addressed in the *Record of Decision (P OD) for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (April 1994)* and the *Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (June 1995)*, and the *Record of Decision for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines (2001)* with which this EA is in conformance, and does not,

in and of itself, constitute a major federal action having significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, a new environmental impact statement or supplement to the existing environmental impact statement is not necessary and will not be prepared.

Decision:

Based on the analysis documented in the Environmental Assessment No. 0R090-EA-04-02 and the Finding of No Significant Impact, it is my decision to implement Alternative 3. This alternative proposes (within the project area) to manually limb and drop young conifers that have diameters less than 9 inches. Resulting slash would be hand piled and burned. One to three years after hand pile burning the project area would be broadcast burned. Areas of exposed soil would be seeded with native grasses. Snags and coarse woody debris would also be created.

Decision Rationale:

Alternative 3 was selected because it was the only alternative to fully meet the projects purpose and objectives. The objective to reduce current stocking levels of young conifers less than 15" diameter breast height by greater than or equal to 90%, would not be achieved by alternatives 1 or 2.

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (April 1994), and the *Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (May 1995).

Administrative Review Opportunities:

The decision to implement this forest management project may be protested under 43 CFR 5003 -Administrative Remedies. In accordance with 43 CFR 5003.2, this decision will not be subject to protest until the notice of decision is published in the Eugene Register-Guard on April 14, 2004. The published notice of decision will establish the effective date of the decision. 43 CFR 5003.2(a). Protests of this decision must be filed with this office within fifteen (15) days after publication of the notice of decision.

Approved by: Emily Rice
Upper Willamette Resource Area Manager

Date: April 6, 2004